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Warlike Movements in Europe—Ominous Speech of Napoleon.

From the Herald.

The specter of war which a few weeks ago arose from the petty German quarrel over the Danish duchies has grown into a heavy and portentous cloud, overshadowing the whole European continent. From the Bay of Biscay to the Black Sea there is a general mustering of the nations for war. The news by the Cuba is positively startling. Thus it appears that the whole Prussian army, in great bodies of troops, is marching along the frontier, that "Austria is bringing into the field every man she can raise, and the whole nation is preparing for war; that Italy is all ablaze with her preparations for battle; that all the German States are arming; that Russia, were it not for Vienna, was preparing for a hand in the expected struggle; and that even the Sultan had taken the alarm, and that the army of Turkey was to be raised to its full strength.

There appears to be no hopes of a European Congress, and no signs of mediation. On the contrary, Napoleon had made "a significant speech at Auxerre, in which he said he detected the treaties of 1815—the treaties under which France was humiliated and razed by the Holy Alliance. The attitude of France was, from recent accounts, that of perfect freedom in this existing continental imbroglio. In this speech at Auxerre, however, Napoleon withdraws the veil. The treaty of 1815, he says, was the empire of Napoleon the First, and wiped out the boundaries, in a reconstruction of the map of France and of Europe; and now Napoleon the Third gives the solemn warning that he detects those treaties. It means that out of the present difficulties between his German and Italian neighbors he intends a comprehensive abrogation of those treaties of 1815, as the sacred duty of the nephew of the imperial memory of his uncle. It is a Napoleonic idea, which means a general shaking up once more by the Emperor of the Kings and Kaisers of Europe. It means a general European war, and perhaps another Holy Alliance.

But what are these difficulties which threaten so luminously this expected conflagration of the whole continent? They have grown out of the robber's quarrel between Prussia and Austria over those Danish duchies. Wreathed from Denmark by an unholy alliance, Prussia claims the spoils and Austria resents the outrage. They both proceed to arm for war. Young Italy, impatiently watching for her chance to pounce upon Venice, believes that the hour is at hand, and proceeds to buckle on her armor, by land and sea. And here is the danger. Austria and Prussia, it left to themselves, would probably bluster and persist in the game of frightened each other till both would be ready for a compromise. But the Italians are in earnest, and from the important fact that Napoleon no longer restrains them, we are free to infer that they feel sure of his support. At Auxerre, Napoleon has his brief New Year's rebuff of 1859 to the Austrian Ambassador, is tantamount to a declaration of war.

Mexico, as an equivalent to the House of Hapsburg for Venice, has failed. Napoleon has therefore found it necessary and expedient to put an end to his dubious diplomacy with Austria. He resumes his original role, where it was suspended at the peace of Villafranca, and the armistice of the reopening of the drama. We apprehend, from Napoleon's ominous speech, that in the present posture of these European complications a continental war can be prevented only by the speedy interposition of England and Russia in behalf of peace. But as England may prefer to maintain the status quo of a neutral, and as Russia may prefer a settlement with the "sick man of Turkey," the probabilities, as they now appear, are decidedly in favor of a general European war.

The Panic Means War.

From the Tribune.

Such is the judgment of the more intelligent classes throughout Europe. They have all but unanimously concluded that Prussia and Italy are legions to attack Austria, and that Napoleon is secretly backing them. What was before suspicious became conviction when the telegraph, on the 7th inst., startled cabinets and shattered credit by flashing abroad the speech made on the 6th by Napoleon to the Mayor of Auxerre, in response to a complimentary address. Its text is as follows:—

"I see with pleasure that the memory of the First Empire has not been effaced from your minds. Believe me, for my own part, I have inherited the feelings entertained by the chief of my family, for this energetic and patriotic nation, who sustained the Emperor in good as in evil fortune. I have a debt of gratitude to discharge towards you. This department was the scene of your sufferings in 1815, because it knew, with the majority of the French people, that its interests were my interests, and that I detested equally with them those treaties of 1815 which were imposed upon them. From the basis of our foreign policy, I thank you for the sentiments you have expressed towards me. Among you I breathe freely, for it is among the working population, both in this and country, that I find the real genius of France."

There is no mistaking this language. If a great war is not at hand, its author will evidently be sorely disappointed. Hence every Stock Exchange in Europe has the blue ink blunders; hence the stoppage of payment by every city; and hitherto solid concerns as Peto & Betts, railway kings; and Overend, Gurney & Co., bankers; hence the increase of the rate of interest by the Bank of England, and the extraordinary figure of ten per cent. floating in the market. From Messina to the Danubius; hence the universal and just apprehension of a war as gigantic as any and more costly than that which hurried back the first Napoleon from Moscow to Elba.

There is hardly a chance that peace can be preserved. Each of the prospective belligerents charges the other with the aggressive intent which each disclaims; each says it will not attack; yet each runs on arming to the teeth, though Austria and Italy are virtually bankrupt, and the Prussian King and his Minister know that they can only plunge their country into a needless war in defiance of their people's wishes and protests. Yet it is plain that, if war were not intended, such enormous ruinous expenses of preparation for it would not have been incurred; so all, sadly or gladly, look confidently for war.

We shall now have a chance to return some of the lectures read by our European monitors some two or three years ago, and to repurchase some of the bonds they bought of us (at very low figures) in our extremity. With economy, industry, and a good trade, we may ride out the storm just bursting, unharmed and unshaken.

Foreign Wars and Home Republicanism.

From the Daily News.

A sober and temperate review of European affairs exhibits the probability of an approaching war upon that continent, in which all the leading nationalities will be compelled to take part. It is indisputable that the European masses, and especially those identified with Germanic interests, are in a state of exaltation that threatens to precipitate convulsion. The attempt to assassinate the Count Bismarck demonstrates the existence of a popular sentiment intensely hostile to the policy of Russia, as it is proven and acknowledged that the would-be assassin was the representative of a partisan sentiment, and acted as the accepted executioner of the will of a party in the interest of a political movement. The speech of Napoleon at Auxerre, on the 6th inst., suggests an inclination on the part of the Imperial intriguer to witness the kindling of this warlike fire into

a general flame; and he is, perhaps, right in supposing that the safety of his dynasty depends upon the present exercise of the vast military power of his empire, in a war of nations that will give France an opportunity to forget all local considerations of disturbance in the gratification of the national ambition for military glory.

It is our republic in its natural condition of republicanism, we could be simply looking upon this show of armed combatants; spectators gazing from afar upon the arena where these foreign gladiators tested their prowess and wasted their vitality and strength. If we would but be true to the principles that have been so successfully in the midst of conflicts upon international issues, if we would but obey the precepts of Washington, and be guided by the teachings of Jefferson and other true apostles of Democracy, these dissensions abroad would not occasion a ripple upon the current of our domestic politics. They would, on the contrary, be of value to us by teaching us lessons of precious significance; for it is better to profit by the sad experience of others than by our own. But in the present unsettled and abnormal condition of this republic, there is no telling how far we may be entangled in the complicated web of international questions with which Europe is now perplexed; and in view of the fact that our country is governed by a ruthless, aspiring, unscrupulous, and unprincipled man, that would not hesitate to adopt any measures that promised him a partisan aggrandizement, there is room for apprehension that we may yet be betrayed into a partnership in the evils of their European quarrels.

It is significant that Congress and the Administration preserve a profound silence in regard to all the issues that disturb the outside world. But this reticence must not be accepted as a sign that our Government intends to keep aloof from all participation in the settlement of the questions involved. When the radicals remain silent so long upon any subject of importance, there is reason to fear that they are contemplating some movement that they know is not in accordance with popular opinion. During the war, and when it was impossible to act in the premises, the Federal Congress was very earnest and unanimous in the expression of sympathy with the cause of the Mexican republic, and very distinctly "pro-Italian." The United States were hostile to the empire of Maximilian. But now that there is no barrier between the promises and their fulfillment, we have no Congressional action nor utterance upon the Mexican question.

The subject has been quietly dropped, because there is no advantage to the radicals to be gained by its present agitation. So with regard to the conflict between Spain and the South American Republics, Congress is most decorously silent upon that subject, and yet it is one of vital importance to the interests of republicanism upon this continent. The duty of the United States, at this crisis, is to protect republicanism in the Western hemisphere, and let the monarchs in the Old World fight it out there; their hearth is not in the Western hemisphere, but in the East. In the decision of questions relative to Schleswig-Holstein, Venice, and other European localities invested with attributes of chronic dispute; but it is distinctly a part of the Republic's policy to resist the encroachments of European powers against the republicanism of America. Chili, Peru, and Mexico appeal to us legitimately for protection against foreign aggression; and, although it is safe and right for our Government to remain entirely neutral in regard to foreign conflicts, yet the officials of our Government cannot explain if we take advantage of their little troubles to help the cause of self-government upon the soil of American Republics.

Dr. Bellows on the President and Congress.

CONGRESS TOO RADICAL—THE PRESIDENT REPRESENTING THE MASSES—THE PEOPLE—RISK OF IMPERIALISM IN WASHINGTON.

Dr. Bellows delivered a lecture on the 7th inst., on the President, Congress, and the Departments, at his church on the Fourth avenue, giving the results of his observations during a ten days' visit to the national capital. He said that the popular idea of the secession was a sink of inquiry; but he was happy to say that he had found it did not merit that reputation. It was pre-eminently a church-going city, and the place of residence of a large number of cultured persons—retired naval officers, men of fortune and Government officials, who preferred the quiet dignity of public employment to the noisy competition of business or the professions—men of the Charles Lamb stamp, who preferred a clerkship for the leisure it afforded for self-cultivation. Referring to the Senate, he said it was composed of a noble body of men, with a few conspicuous exceptions, and that these were representatives of the intelligence and opinions of the better class of Americans more than of the majority of the people. There were no pronounced giants among them—no Websters, Clays, or Calhouns—but there were no pigmies. The House of Representatives was composed of men more widely representative, inferior, on the whole, to the Senate, but still a splendid legislative body. The life of a member of Congress was a busy one, instead of the idle one some supposed it to be. Some members had to keep two or more secretaries to attend to their correspondence. This was a war Congress, and it must be excused for not correctly estimating the leisure of the popular mind in a state of peace. It had been accustomed to pass strong measures, and to pursue an exceptional policy; and it was natural that it should still cling to power, and strive to retain party supremacy. 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